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PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon Senate Votes to Fund Critical State Services

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate passed dozens of budget bills that will fund state agencies for the upcoming biennium to support the health, safety and economic well-being of communities across the state.

The budget bills passed today are among the hundreds of bills that would have died had the Republican walkout continued until the end of session.

Collectively, the bills commit billions of dollars to ensuring Oregon's state agencies can continue their core functions as well as make target expansions to ensure Oregonians can access and benefit from their services.

Among the agencies funded by these bills are the Department of Administrative Services, Bureau of Labor and Industries, Department of Corrections, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Justice, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Business Development Department, Department of State Police, Oregon Youth Authority and Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"We have worked incredibly hard this session crafting bipartisan budgets that will improve the lives of Oregonians across the state," said **Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D-NW Portland)**, Senate co-chair of the budget writing Joint Ways and Means Committee. "These budgets will make our state healthier, safer and more compassionate over the next two years. I'm glad we were able to pass these budgets now that my Republican colleagues have returned."

Across these budgets, some of the programs that were passed today include:

- \$462 million to the Oregon Health Authority to implement the Healthier Oregon Program, which provides health insurance coverage to Oregonians regardless of citizenship status
- \$110 million to the Oregon Health Authority to fund Medicaid eligibility redeterminations and a temporary expansion within the Oregon Health Plan in anticipation of a new Basic Health Plan in 2024
- \$1.8 million to continuing positions in the Department of State Police to address the backlog in firearm background checks
- \$7.2 million to continue the state's partnership with Link Oregon to maintain high-speed, fiber-optic broadband for the state
- \$8.7 million to allow the Department of Corrections to operate a substance use disorder pilot program and establish two K-9 units to help reduce drug issues in the prison system
- \$24 million to the Housing and Community Services Department to provide operating support to existing homeless shelters
- \$24 million to the Board of Nursing, an increase of 5% to address a backlog on nursing licenses and endorsements

The budget bills passed today will now move to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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